

storage, purification, distribution, and retail sale of water. It provides water service to approximately 231,000 connections with a total population of roughly one million people in the San Jose area and 16,000 connections that reach about 49,000 residents in the region between San Antonio and Austin, Texas. The company merged

138,000 connections with a total population of 450,000 people. Has 361 employees. Officers and directors own 8.3% of outstanding shares (3/20 proxy). Chairman & CEO: Richard Roth. Incorporated: California. Address: 110 West Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Telephone: (408) 279-7800. Internet: www.sjwater.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '17-'19 to '23-'25 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 3.0% 6.0% 7.5% 6.0% 2.0% 3.5% 5.5% 4.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 7.5% 12.0% 5.5%

502 7

24.9

139.1

164.0

Current Assets

Accts Pavable

Current Liab

Debt Due

Other

122 0

34.9

177 4

234 6

128 8

25.2

190.9

238 4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep. 30		Full Year
2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	69.0 75.0 77.7 115.8 <b>120</b>	99.1	124.6 124.9 114.0 165 170		389.2 397.7 420.5 <b>550</b> <b>575</b>
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep. 30		Full Year
2017 2018 2019 2020 2021	.18 .06 .21 .08 <b>.20</b>	.90 .62 .47 <b>.60</b>	.94 .76 .33 <b>.85</b> <b>.90</b>	.84 .38 .34 . <b>42</b> . <b>65</b>	2.86 1.82 1.35 <b>1.95</b> <b>2.45</b>
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31		DENDS PA Sep.30	ND <sup>BD</sup> ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.2025 .2175 .28 .30 .32		.2025 .2175 .28 .30	.2025 .3875 .28 .30	.81 1.04 1.12 1.20

Several factors played roles in SJW Group's weaker-than-anticipated first-quarter earnings performance. To start, integration costs related to the October, 2019 acquisition of Connecticut Water continue to weigh on profits. In the March period, SJW incurred merger and integration expenses of \$1.3 million, or \$0.05 per share. On top of that, COVID-19-related expenses amounted to a more modest \$0.02 per share, while interest expense also rose considerably due to the issuance of senior notes in the back half of 2019. In sum, SJW Group earned \$0.08 a share in the first quarter, down from \$0.21 one-year prior.

Management significantly reduced its current-year EPS guidance, thus spurring us to notably scale back our bottom-line forecast. **bottom-line forecasts.** In addition to the abovementioned pressures, water production costs are expected to rise in the coming quarters, largely a consequence of historically low rainfall levels that would require SJW to make up its water shortfall through increased purchases. Should dry weather persist, near-term production expenses could soar by as much as \$10 mil-

lion. All things considered, we are shaving \$0.40 from our 2020 earnings call, to \$1.95 a share, which falls at the low end of management's range. Too, we are lowering our 2021 share profit estimate from \$2.75, to \$2.45

The long term holds more promise, in our view. SJW's recent marriage with CTWS has already begun to bear fruit in terms of revenue growth and, once the integration is in the rearview mirror, should eventually contribute meaningfully to the bottom line. Moreover, shockingly low rainfall is not likely to be a recurring theme. On the operational front, robust infrastructure spending is apt to continue, as the company upgrades water mains, filtration systems, treatment plants, and more-efficient metering technology. Lastly, a good portion of these costs can probably be passed along to customers through periodic rate hikes.

Unranked SJW shares do not stand out at the recent quotation. Price upside over the pull to 2023-2025 is unappealing, and the current dividend yield is below the *Value Line* median. Nicholas P. Patrikis July 10, 2020

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring losses: '04, \$3.78; '05, \$1.09; '06, \$16.36; '08, \$1.22; '10, \$0.46. GAAP accounting as of 2013. Next earnings report due early August. vestment plan available.

Quarterly egs. may not add due to rounding.

(B) Dividends historically paid in early March,
June, September, and December. ■ Div'd rein-

(C) In millions.
(D) Paid special dividend of \$0.17 per share on

(E) Suspended due to recent CTWS merger.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 75 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 45

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